

2. *Sin destroys.*—Sin is destructive. It rent the kingdom of Israel in twain and that is the kind of work it has been doing ever since its introduction into the world. When sin gets control of our lives we are doomed, there is no hope for any one who is under the power of sin until he gets out from under that power. It is the very nature of sin to destroy. There is nothing constructive about it, it is destructive, and thousands have learned this fact to their own sorrow.

Life's turning points.—There are turning points in each life. There comes a time when destiny hangs upon a single act. Such a time came to Rehoboam. He had it in his hands to make of himself a great man. He had in his own hand the possibilities of a prosperous reign, one that would have brought glory to God and honor to himself. He could have won the people to him and inaugurated a grand movement for God and his fellowmen. But he abused his privilege and his opportunities as have thousands of others since that time. We need to be wide awake to these opportunities, for we are continually coming upon turning points in our lives, times when our entire future depends upon a single decision. Thousands have thrown away infinite blessings by a single word.

4. *Serving by love.*—Those who are set over others should rule by kindness and in love serve one another. If Rehoboam had really loved the people he would not have governed them with that rod of tyranny which brought disruption to the kingdom. It is always best to rule by love. This is a good lesson for preachers, Sunday school teachers and superintendents, and parents, and in fact all who have and exercise authority over others. It is love that wins, and with this weapon Rehoboam would have accomplished what he could not with all his weapons of warfare.

To Make You Think

1. What one thing in Rehoboam is commendable? 2. What three things are not commendable? 3. Is the advice of old people safe? 4. Is the advice of young people always bad? 5. Why is the advice of old people safer than that of young people? 6. In what sense may it be said that the division of the kingdom was from the Lord? 8. Is it ever possible for good to come out of evil? 8. Does God ever overrule the evil designs of men for good? 9. Is it ever right to do evil that good may come? 10. What great possibilities were open to Rehoboam? 11. Are such possibilities open to us? 12. What kingdom does the Lord offer us? 13. On what conditions can it be obtained? 14. Is the kingdom of God divided? 15. What is the kingdom of God and what does it include? 16. In your judgment had it been better if the kingdom had not been divided?

Lesson Points

1. Bad advice has wrecked many a life.
2. The advice of old people is likely to be safer than that of young people.

3. Those who rule over others should observe, "By love serving one another."

4. Never leave God out of your plans.

5. It is a blessed thought that God can and does overrule the plan and counsels of men for good.

What The Sunday School Should Accomplish

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We look upon the church as the organization of all organizations. Divinely planned, divinely organized, and her work divinely executed. She has upon herself the stamp and seal of Almighty God; written not with pen and ink, but with the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Her ministers are set to minister to the spiritual wants of the children of God; to feed, to cherish, to raise, to comfort, to encourage them in the work of their Master; and he who dares abuse any of her precepts incurs the responsibilities of high Heaven. The church, then, is the temporal garner of God, a place of safe keeping, until that glorious day when He by his Son shall take out of this garner the pure seed and gather it into His eternal garner—the Kingdom of Heaven.

But are there not avenues leading to this garner, recognized and sactioned by God? We believe that God will bless all adjuncts to his church that show fruitage to his cause. We believe that his powerful hand is in, and behind, all that works for good. That they have his protecting care over them, and that He will use them in furthering his cause and the salvation of souls. Among these avenues we have the Sunday school, whose work begins at the cradle and ends only in the emerging into the church triumphant.

The subject assigned is one of those deep spiritual phases of God's work which demands the attention of every child of God. We believe that none ever get too old to work in this avenue. We are called upon to answer the question, what should the Sunday school accomplish? Our answer, in the broad sense of the term, is, the fulfilling of the One great Commission given by our Saviour, "Go teach all nations." Every moment has its beginning and its end. The Saviour's ministry while on earth had its beginning and its end. Like-wise that of the apostles. Equally true, every movement had its subjects to deal with. The Sunday school, a fore-runner of the church, has its subjects to deal with, which are mainly the young of our country. The first and primary accomplishment of the Sunday school should be the

SPREADING OF THE GOSPEL.

It is here where we receive the young and tender plants. That little mind, which by its environments, is trained to think and longs after higher aspirations, the lips that so soon learn to imitate its parents, the little feet that soon make their way into the various avenues of the world, may also be trained to think and speak of the blessed Christ.

Science has shown that these impressions may ever be made pre-natal, how much more then can they be made post-natal. He who

has said "train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it, uttered a truth that will stand until the kigdon of this world shall give place to the Kingdom of God's dear Son. It is as high as the heavens and as deep as the wisdom of man. Sin is natural; it requires no effort to sin; The inclinations of man are to go astray.

Rebellion against God is the dominant issue of his life. This spirit has saturated and instilled itself in man, and has not, or ever will leave him to only such an extent as the power of God gains power over this nature. Thus we can redily see how necessary it is for the Sunday school to seek to make her impressions firm and lasting. False impressions may take months, and sometimes years to remove them, and many cases are seen to cling to their victim during their whole life. Concerning the teachers, it needs only be mentioned that a lesson half learned will be half taught, for how can he teach that which he has not learned? Another means of deepening those impressions is, is to show mutual relationship to each other. Like begets like, is a law matterable. This is seen not only in the animal and vegetable kingdoms but in the spiritual kingdom as well. As certain seeds will produce like seeds, so will spiritual teachers beget spiritual scholars. Let the teacher remember that he is set over the scholars, and on him rests the responsibility of instructing them in the way of the Lord. We cannot shift this personal responsibility. There is a silent call comes to every parent, as well, and it is not the call of man, but the call of Him who is above all principalities and powers, the call of directing this treasure into a life of usefulness. O may we pause and think along this line; when we shall stand in the presence of God, when every secret thought, and every deed shall be made manifest, shall we then be compelled to look back over life and face the awful mistakes of neglecting these duties? God forbid.

We know of no more applicable comparison than to say the Sunday school is the Nursery of the church, composed of fathers and mothers, sons and daughters. We repeat, it is here where we receive the young and tender plants. This pure, unclouded, innocent child, over whose life no cloud of evil ever has flown, no lips ever polluted with words of profanity, shall we suffer that implanted seed to bud and bring forth a servant of satan, doomed for the destinies of Hell? Who will say no? I heard a man say, "it is impossible to wholly erase a lead-pencil mark from a sheet of paper, while erased from the marked eye, by the aid of a microscope the figure is yet seen," shall this page that is purely white be marred by the hand of the evil one?

Henry Ward Beecher has said, a sermon is incomplete unless "clinched;" may we then seek to "clinch" the good impressions that they may be firm and lasting.

The successful nurseryman is he who carefully prepares his soil, he sees that there is